

BLACK DIAMOND  
WESTERN

AUTHORIZED  
A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS  
to the  
COMICS  
CODE

# BLACK DIAMOND

10¢



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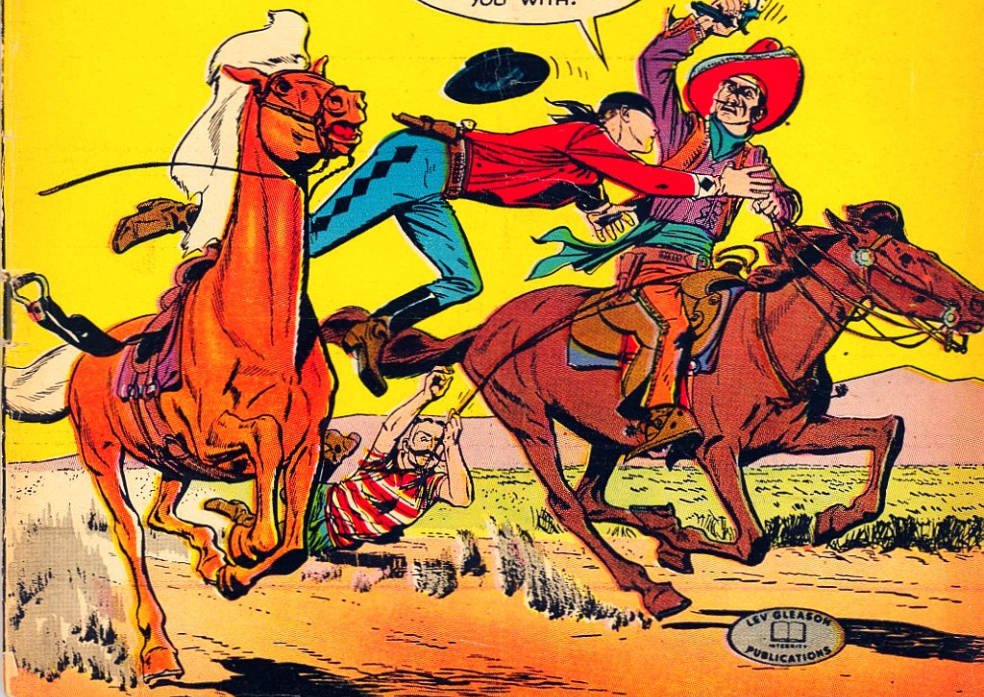
FEATURE-LENGTH  
BLACK DIAMOND  
STORIES!

# WESTERN

JULY  
NO. 36

LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

YOU'VE REACHED THE END  
OF YOUR ROPE! I'LL SEE  
THAT THE SHERIFF USES  
IT TO HANG  
YOU WITH!



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PUBLICATIONS



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# BLACK DIAMOND

in "THE DUSTY GAP INCIDENT"

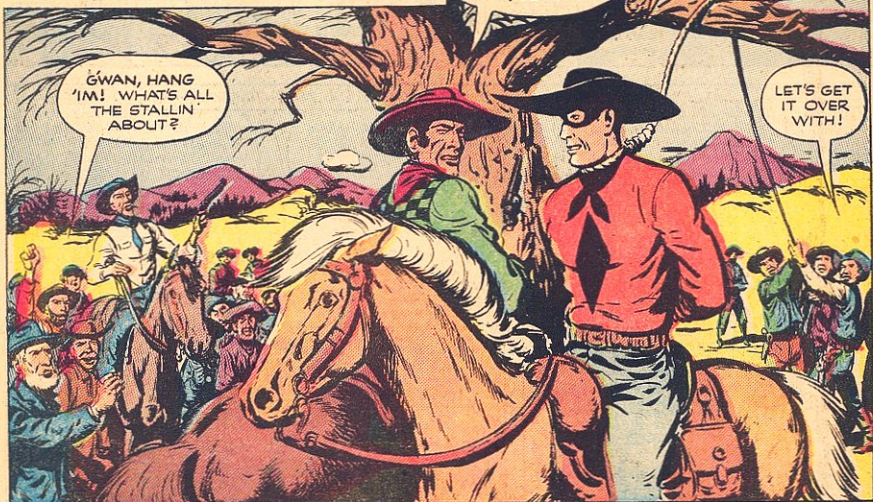
**A FABULOUS GOLD STRIKE!** A MURDERED PROSPECTOR! A DIABOLICAL, POWER-HUNGRY SALOON OWNER...AND A BLOODTHIRSTY MOB! THESE WERE THE INGREDIENTS THAT WENT INTO THE MAKINGS OF BLACK DIAMOND'S MOST HARROWING ADVENTURE—THE DUSTY GAP INCIDENT!

YOU SHOWED YOUR TRUE COLORS BY PROTECTIN' A CROOK, BLACK DIAMOND! YOU GOT ANYTHING TO SAY BEFORE WE BRING YOU UP?

ONLY THAT YOU MEN ARE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! MOB RULE NEVER REPRESENTS LAW AND ORDER!

SEE VALUABLE TRADING CARD OFFER FOLLOWING THIS STORY SEND THIS WITH YOUR ORDER BLANKS 2 COUPONS PLUS 1/2¢ WILL ENTITLE YOU TO ONE SET OF TRADING CARDS

CUT OUT AND SAVE!



ON A QUIET AFTERNOON IN THE SUMMER OF 1878—THE PEACE AND SERENITY OF THE TOWN OF DUSTY GAP WAS SUDDENLY BROKEN...

YAHOO! I HIT IT! GOLD! THE BIGGEST STRIKE I'VE SEEN SINCE CALIFORNY!

IT'S OLD NED STEMPER! SAYS HE'S STRUCK GOLD! C'MON!

WH..WHAT'S THAT?

BUT AS MOST OF THE TOWN'S INHABITANTS FOLLOWED OLD NED TO THE ASSAYER'S OFFICE—EVIL EYES LOOKED ON...

THE OLD BUZZARD! FOLLOW 'IM, REB, AND GET THE LOWDOWN!

OKAY, DUKE! I'LL MEET YA BACK HERE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



WELL, I'LL BE... IT'S REAL GOLD, ALL RIGHT, NED! A STRIKE LIKE THIS OUGHTA NET YOU MORE'N A MILLION!

HA, HA! YOU HEAR THAT? I HIT IT! I'M RICH! I'M RICH!

DUKE'LL SURE BE INTERESTED 'T HEAR THIS!



IT'S ABOUT TIME NED HIT PAY DIRT! HE DESERVES IT!

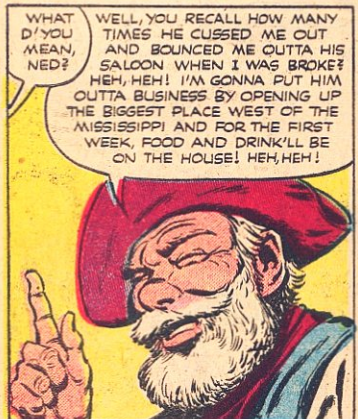
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! AFTER ALL THE YEARS HE'S PUT IN PROSPECTIN'!

I SURE DO!



WELL, NED, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH ALL YOUR MONEY?

HEH, HEH! WELL, FIRST OFF, I'M GONNA PAY BACK EVERY-ONE WHO GRUB-STAKED ME WITH INTEREST! AND THEN, HEH, HEH, I'M GONNA FIX UP MR. DUKE BRAND REAL GOOD!



WHAT D'YOU MEAN, NED?

WELL, YOU RECALL HOW MANY TIMES HE CURSED ME OUT AND BOUNCED ME OUTTA HIS SALOON WHEN I WAS BROKE? HEH, HEH! I'M GONNA PUT HIM OUTTA BUSINESS BY OPENING UP THE BIGGEST PLACE WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND FOR THE FIRST WEEK, FOOD AND DRINK'LL BE ON THE HOUSE! HEH, HEH!

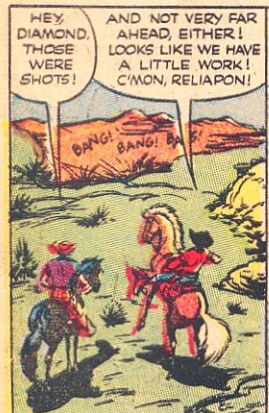


THE FOLLOWING DAY, A FEW MILES AWAY...

I JUST WANT TO SAY HELLO.

I SURE WISH I KNEW WHY PASSING THROUGH A ONE-HORSE TOWN LIKE DUSTY GAP IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, DIAMOND!

TO OLD NED STEMPEL! HE SAVED MY LIFE AS A BOY, AND I MAKE IT A POINT TO DROP BY ONCE IN A WHILE, AND GIVE HIM A LITTLE GRUBSTAKE!



HEY, DIAMOND, THOSE WERE SHOTS!

AND NOT VERY FAR AHEAD, EITHER! LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A LITTLE WORK! C'MON, RELIAPON!



SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S COLD-BLOODED MURDER, BUMPER! SOMEONE DELIBERATELY SHOT THIS OLD PROSPECTOR IN THE BACK!

FILTHY POLECATS! TURN HIM OVER, DIAMOND! LET'S SEE WHO HE IS!



WH...? BUMPER! IT'S HIM--OLD NED STEMPEL, MY FRIEND!

I...I'M SORRY! SAY, LOOK, HIS POCKETS HAVE BEEN TURNED INSIDE OUT! THE

MOTIVE WAS ROBBERY, BUT WHAT WOULD A POOR, RAGGED PROSPECTOR HAVE THAT ANY-BODY'D WANT TO STEAL?

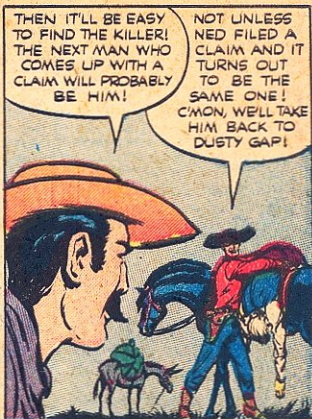


I DON'T KNOW BUMPER—UNLESS HE FOUND GOLD AND...HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT IS IT?



LOOK! LITTLE SPECKS OF GOLD DUST ON THIS PAN! HE DID MAKE A STRIKE, BUMPER! AND JUDGING BY THE FULL PACK HE WAS TOTING, HE WAS JUST SETTING OUT TO WORK IT! THE MURDERER MUST'VE KILLED HIM FOR HIS MAP!



THEN IT'LL BE EASY TO FIND THE KILLER! THE NEXT MAN WHO COMES UP WITH A CLAIM WILL PROBABLY BE HIM!

NOT UNLESS NED FILED A CLAIM AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE THE SAME ONE! C'MON, WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO DUSTY GAP!

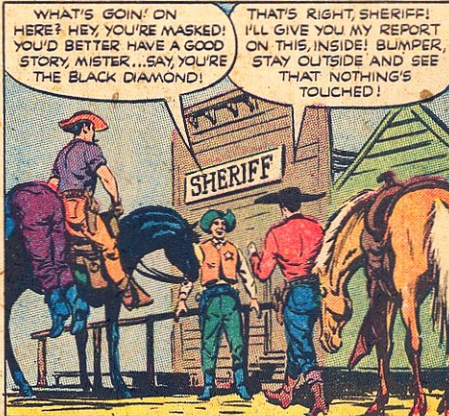
AS LATE AFTERNOON DESCENDED ON DUSTY GAP—THE TOWNSFOLK WERE STARTLED BY A STRANGE PROCESSION DRIFTING DOWN THE MAIN STREET...



HEY—LOOK! THAT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!

SO IT IS! AND THAT DEAD MAN LOOKS LIKE...LIKE OLD NED!

OH—OH! DUKE AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS!



WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? HEY, YOU'RE MASKED! YOU'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD STORY, MISTER...SAY, YOU'RE THE BLACK DIAMOND!

THAT'S RIGHT, SHERIFF! I'LL GIVE YOU MY REPORT ON THIS, INSIDE! BUMPER, STAY OUTSIDE AND SEE THAT NOTHING'S TOUCHED!



SEVERAL MOMENTS LATER...

...AND BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE THE KILLER HAD LIT OFF!

WELL, I'LL CONFIRM THAT NED HIT PAY DIRT, ALL RIGHT, BUT EVERYBODY LOVED HIM! WHO'D WANT TO KILL HIM? O...OH, DUKE BRAND, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I JUST HEARD ABOUT OLD NED, SHERIFF! AN' I'VE GOT SOME LIGHT TO THROW ON THE CASE!



FOLKS KNOW THAT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY LOVE FOR NED AN' I WAS THINKING I MIGHT BE THE FIRST SUSPECT, SEEN' AS HOW HE WAS SHOT IN THE BACK! WELL, THIS HERE PAPER I GOT SHOULD PROVE DIFFERENT! I MADE A DEAL WITH NED—BOUGHT HIM OUT FOR TEN THOUSAND BUCKS!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

HAWWW! IT'S SIGNED ALL RIGHT... BUT I CAN'T FIGURE IT! THAT CLAIM WAS WORTH A COOL MILLION! IT CLEARS YOU OF A MOTIVE, THOUGH!

SURE! BESIDES, WHAT WOULD NED DO WITH ALL THAT DOUGH? HE WAS OLD-FIGURED THE CASH I GAVE HIM WOULD LAST OUT HIS DAYS IN COMFORT!



RETURNING TO HIS OFFICE BEHIND THE SALOON—DUKE BRAND REVEALED HIS TEMPER TO HIS HENCHMAN, REB BURGESS...

ALL RIGHT—SO I MADE THE MISTAKE OF LEAVIN' NED FOR THE VULTURES INSTEAD OF HIDIN' THE BODY! SO WHAT! YOU GOT THE PAPER AND NO-BODY CAN PROVE IT AIN'T LEGAL!

YEAH, YOU DUKE MA'ERICK... BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND IS NO FOOL! HE MIGHT TURN SOMETHING UP! IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET RID OF HIM!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

I CAN'T FIGURE IT, BLACK DIAMOND! THAT PAPER SURE PUTS BRAND IN THE CLEAR!

NOT NECESSARILY—IF NED SOLD OUT HIS INTERESTS—TO RETIRE—WHY WAS HE OUT ON THE RANGE WITH A FULL BACK! ... WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE OUTSIDE!



DIAMOND! THEY'RE CALLING FOR THE SHERIFF TO ARREST BRAND, FOR NED'S MURDER! THEY'RE IN A PRETTY MEAN MOOD!

LET ME HANDLE THIS, SHERIFF!



NOW CALM DOWN A MOMENT, YOU MEN! WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE THAT DUKE BRAND KILLED NED!

HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO HATED NED THAT MUCH! NED WAS GONNA DRIVE BRAND OUT OF BUSINESS BY BUILDIN' A BIGGER PLACE THAN THE PALACE!

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW Y'GONNA ARREST BRAND OR NOT!



WITHOUT ANY ACTUAL PROOF OF HIS GUILT—I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

BAH! HE'S JUST AS CROOKED AS BRAND! C'MON, MEN, THERE'S JUST ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH KILLERS!



BUMPER! RELIAPON! DON'T LET THEM PASS!

HUH! A FEW WILD SHOTS OVER THEIR HEADS OUGHTTA SLOW 'EM DOWN FOR A SPELL!

HEY, WATCH IT! THAT NAG'S GONE PLUMB LOCO!



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE UPROAR, BLACK DIAMOND QUICKLY SKIRTED AROUND THE MOB AND BOUNDED INTO THE SADDLE...

WHERE TO, DIAMOND!

THE PALACE! AND HURRY BEFORE THESE MEN REGAIN THEIR COMPOSURE! GUILTY OR NOT, IT'S OUR DUTY TO PROTECT DUKE BRAND!



HEY, LOOK, DUKE! HE'S WALKIN' RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS! ONE DEAD MARSHAL COWIN' UP!

PUT AWAY THAT GUN, YOU FOOL!

TAKE THE HORSES AROUND IN BACK, BUMPER—AND MEET ME IN BRAND'S OFFICE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BRAND! OH, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE GOT TO TAKE YOU AND YOUR MEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY! THERE'S A MOB COMING THIS WAY AND THEY'RE AFTER YOUR NECK!

WELL, IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, THEY'VE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN! OPEN THE CABINET, REB!



SEE THAT? I COULD STAND OFF AN ARMY IN HERE FOR WEEKS WITH THIS ARSENAL! OKAY, BOYS, GRAB YOUR WEAPONS!

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THAT, BRAND! IT'S MY JOB TO PRESERVE HUMAN LIFE AND... LISTEN! THEY'RE COMING! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



SORRY, BLACK DIAMOND, BUT WE'RE STAYIN' AND WHAT'S MORE... UGH!

SORRY, BUT I'VE NO TIME TO ARGUE, BRAND!

HEY, C'MON, BOYS, LET'S GET THIS HOMBRE!



THEY'VE GOT ME COVERED ALL AROUND! I...

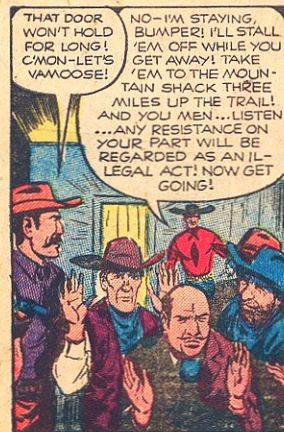
DROP 'EM, GENTS! AND STAND AS Y'ARE! LET'S GET THEIR GUNS, DIAMOND!

JUST IN TIME!



I GOT 'EM COVERED, BUMPER! THE MOB'S ENTERING THE SALOON! QUICK! LOCK THAT DOOR! WE'LL NEED EVERY SECOND!

RIGHT! YOU CRITTERS STAND BACK WITH YOUR HANDS RAISED!



THAT DOOR WON'T HOLD FOR LONG! C'MON—LET'S VAMOOSE!

NO—I'M STAYING, BUMPER! I'LL STALL 'EM A FEW WHILE YOU GET AWAY! TAKE 'EM TO THE MOUNTAIN SHACK THREE MILES UP THE TRAIL! AND YOU MEN... LISTEN... ANY RESISTANCE ON YOUR PART WILL BE REGARDED AS AN ILLEGAL ACT! NOW GET GOING!



AS THE MEN IN BUMPER'S CHARGE GALLOPED OFF BEHIND THE SALOON, THE LAWLESS MOB HURLED ITS MIGHT AGAINST THE OFFICE DOOR... FOR SEVERAL SECONDS IT HELD, THEN...

STAND FAST, YOU MEN! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

WHY, THEY'RE ALL GONE EXCEPT THE BLACK DIAMOND!

THEY MUST'VE GONE OUT THE BACK WAY! THAT MAKES THE BLACK DIAMOND JUST AS GUILTY AS BRAND FOR PROTECTIN' HIM!

CRASH



BUT SUDDENLY... DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, OR I'LL HAVE TO... UGH!

C'MON, RUSH! GRAB HIS GUNS!

YEAH! SOMEBODY GET A ROPE! HE AIN'T NO MORE LAW OFFICER THAN DUKE BRAND!

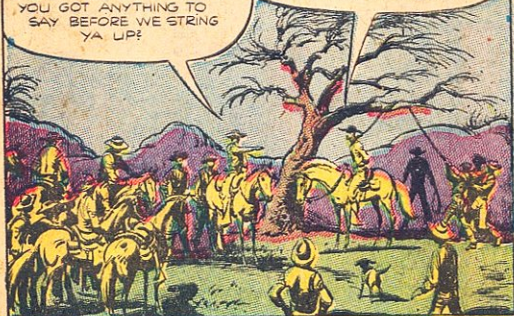


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

QUICKLY SUBDUED AND BOUND—BLACK DIAMOND WAS TAKEN TO THE EDGE OF TOWN WHERE THE LIMB OF A LONE TREE SUITED THE MOB'S PURPOSES...

YOU SHOWED YOUR TRUE COLORS BY PROTECTIN' A CROOK—BLACK DIAMOND! YOU GOT ANYTHING TO SAY BEFORE WE STRING YA UP!

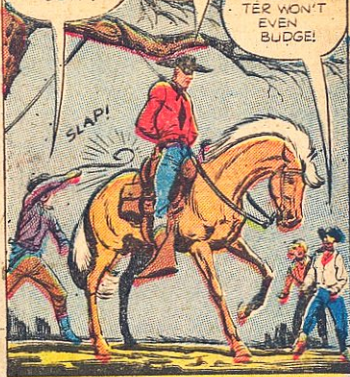
ONLY THAT YOU MEN ARE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! MOB RULE NEVER REPRESENTS LAW AND ORDER!



ALL RIGHT, HORSE! GET GOIN'!

STEADY—RELIAPON!

WELL, I'LL BE... THE ORNERY CRITTER WON'T EVEN BUDGE!



OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE IMPENDING DOOM AWAITING HIS MASTER—THE STURDY RELIAPON REFUSED TO MOVE... AND BEFORE THE CROWD COULD RECOVER FROM THIS SURPRISE, THE MIGHTY STEED REARED UP HIS FRONT HOOVES FLAILING...

COME ON, RELIAPON! SHOW 'EM SOME REAL SPEED!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

BUT THE GREAT SPEED OF RELIAPON REMAINED UNCHALLENGED AS BLACK DIAMOND ELUDED HIS PURSUERS...

GOOD BOY, RELIAPON! GO TO IT!

AAAH! WATCH OUT FOR THEM HOOVES!

GET OUT OF MY WAY! THAT HORSE IS THE DEVIL!



AFTER HIM, YOU FOOLS! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!



NOW IF I CAN ONLY WORK MY POCKET KNIFE OUT OF... I OUGHT TO HAVE THOSE ROPES CUT IN A FEW SECONDS!



ONCE FREE OF HIS BONDS THE BLACK DIAMOND SLOWLY GUIDED RELIAPON DOWN THE TRAIL, THEN UNDER COVER OF THE DESCENDING NIGHT RETURNED TO DUSTY GAP AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE REAR DOOR OF THE ASSAYER'S OFFICE...

WHA...? BLACK DIAMOND! IF THAT MOB FINDS YOU HERE...

THEY WON'T! BUT LISTEN... I NEED YOUR HELP! I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT CLAIM THAT OLD NED SEMPEL SIGNED—RIGHT AWAY!



AS A MARSHAL—I GUESS YOU'VE GOT THE AUTHORITY! THERE 'TIS! CAN'T SEE WHAT GOOD IT'LL DO YA THOUGH!

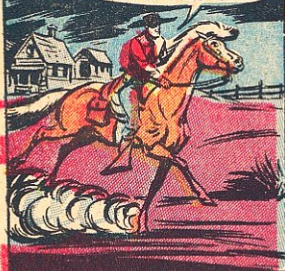
ON THE CONTRARY! IT'S ALL THE EVIDENCE I'LL NEED TO PUT DUKE BRAND'S NECK IN A NOOSE! NOW... LEND ME YOUR GUNS!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BOUNCING TO THE SADDLE, BLACK DIAMOND HEADED FOR THE MOUNTAIN SHACK WHERE HE HAD DISPATCHED BUMPER WITH DUKE BRAND AND HIS MEN...

BURN UP THAT DUST, RELIAPON! BUMPER MUST BE HAVING HIS HANDS FULL TRYING TO KEEP THOSE MEN IN CHECK!



BUT LITTLE DID BLACK DIAMOND REALIZE THE TRAP INTO WHICH HE WAS RIDING, FOR IN THE SHACK AT THE MOMENT...

YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU'D HOLD US FOR LONG, DID YOU, LAWMAN! HAW! WE'LL JUST WAIT FOR THAT MASKED BARD OF YOURS TO SHOW! IT'S COLD IN HERE! LIGHT A FIRE, LUM!



HEY, DUKE! I HEAR HOOFBEATS! MUST BE THE BLACK DIAMOND!

I BET BUMPER'LL BE GLAD TO SEE US, EH, BOY? WHOA! WHAT'S THE MATTER? SOMETHING WRONG!



YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED, BLACK DIAMOND! YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP AND COME IN WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

WH...? A SHOT! DUCK— RELIAPON! THOSE COYOTES AREN BUSINESS! IF THEY'VE HARMED BUMPER... I'LL...

ZZING!



THOSE RATS! THEY KNOW I CAN'T FIRE BACK AT THEM FOR FEAR OF HITTING BUMPER... THEY'VE GOT A FIRE GOING IN THE STOVE... IF I CAN JUST CRAWL AROUND TO THE SIDE WITHOUT BEING SEEN...



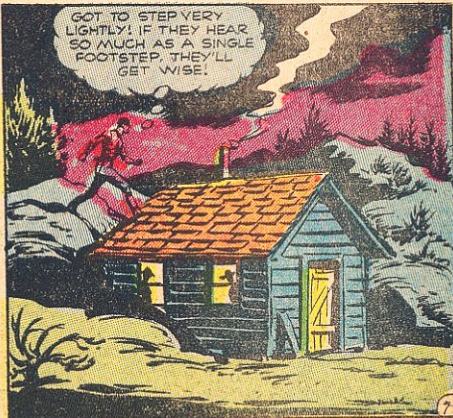
LEAVING HIS HAT PROPPED JUST OVER THE EDGE OF A BOULDER AS A DECAY, THE BLACK DIAMOND SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY EDGED HIS WAY ALONG THE GROUND... TOWARD THE SIDE OF THE SHACK...

NOT MUCH FARTHER TO GO! AS SOON AS I GET TO THOSE ROCKS, I'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE ROOF!



I DON'T LIKE THIS, DUKE! HE HASN'T FIRED A SINGLE SHOT! MAYBE HE'S HIT!

A AH... HE'S AFRAID OF HITTING HIS PAL HERE! KEEP UNDER COVER! IF NECESSARY— WE'LL WAIT 'UNTIL' MORNING!



GOT TO STEP VERY LIGHTLY! IF THEY HEAR SO MUCH AS A SINGLE FOOTSTEP, THEY'LL GET WISE!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

REMOVING SEVERAL CARTRIDGES FROM HIS BELT... BLACK DIAMOND DROPPED THEM INTO THE PROTRUDING STOVE PIPE...

I'M OUTNUMBERED FIVE TO ONE... BUT THEY'VE ONLY GOT TWO GUNS... BUMPER! WHEN THOSE BULLETS START POPPING IT OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH TO DISTRACT THEM!



DIAMOND MUST BE UP TO SOME TRICK... BUT I WISH I KNEW WHAT IT... OHO, SO THAT'S IT! GOOD THING THESE BOYS ARE TOO TENSE TO HEAR IT! IN A FEW SECONDS THEY'LL JUMP LIKE BUCKIN' BRONCOS!

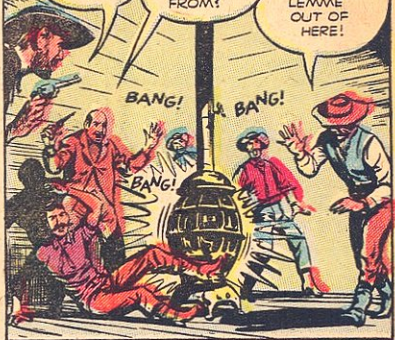


SEVERAL SECONDS LATER...

W...WHAT THE DEUCE?

WHERE'RE THOSE SHOTS COMING FROM?

WATCH OUT! IT'S THE STOVE! IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE! LEMME OUT OF HERE!



INSTANTLY - THE BLACK DIAMOND DROPS FROM THE ROOF - KICKS OPEN THE DOOR AND EXHIBITS HIS GREAT MARKSMANSHIP...

C'MON, BOYS! HE CAN'T GET ALL OF US! WE'RE FIVE AGAINST ONE! LET'S RUSH HIM!

I'M GONNA FIX YOU, PROPER - DIAMOND -

STAY BACK, YOU GUYS! LET'S KEEP THIS FIGHT PRIVATE - LIKE, HUH?



OWW! MY HAND!

ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE ALL COVERED! SO REACH HIGH!

B...BLACK DIAMOND! WHERE'D HE COME FR... OWWA!



STAND BACK OR...



BIG WORDS CALL FOR BIG ACTION, BRAND!



THERE! THAT OUGHT TO FINISH YOU, BRAND! TIE THEIR HANDS WITH THEIR OWN BELTS, BUMPER! WE'RE TAKIN' 'EM IN TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER!

UGH!



AIN'T YOU FORGETTIN' THAT LITTLE PAPER THAT OLD NED SIGNED - BLACK DIAMOND? THAT'LL CLEAR ME IN ANY COURT OF LAW!

IT'LL BE EASY TO PROVE IT'S A FORGERY, BRAND! YOU SEE - OLD NED COULDN'T WRITE!



WH...WHAT? COULDN'T WRITE!

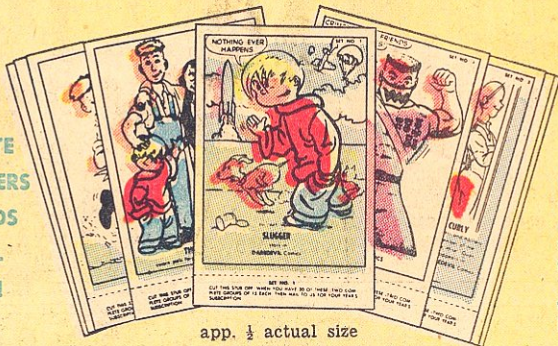
THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN HIS CLAIM TO THAT GOLD STRIKE WAS SIGNED WITH AN 'X'! I CHECKED WITH THE ASSAYER'S OFFICE BEFORE HEADING HERE! YOU'LL HANG FOR MURDER, BRAND!

THE END

# THE HIT OF THE YEAR

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**HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET ANY SET YOU WANT!** You will find a special trading card coupon on the top of the first page of this magazine. Until further notice these coupons will be found in all of the following Lev Gleason Comics: **CRIME DOES NOT PAY, BOY, CRIME & PUNISHMENT, DAREDEVIL and BLACK DIAMOND.**

Just send us **TWO** of these coupons, with 10¢ (no stamps, please) and we will send you any set of trading cards you want. You can pick your own sets. They are listed in the box below. And you can order as many sets as you like. Just remember to send two coupons and 10¢ for each set. There are 5 sets in all. Get all of them and have the best collection yourself!

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE COUPON YOU NEED TO GET YOUR TRADING CARDS. YOU WILL FIND IT ON THE FIRST INSIDE PAGE OF EACH MAGAZINE. SEND IT WITH YOUR ORDER BLANK. 2 COUPONS PLUS 10¢ WILL ENTITLE YOU TO 1 SET OF TRADING CARDS.

**NOTE:** When you send your coupons and 10¢, paste the coupons on a post card or attach them to the handy order blank at the right. You will find the coupons on the front page of any of the Lev Gleason Comics mentioned above (**CRIME DOES NOT PAY, BOY, CRIME & PUNISHMENT, DAREDEVIL and BLACK DIAMOND.**)

Order your set by number. Be sure to print your name and address plainly and mail to:

**PICTURE SET DIVISION,  
Lev Gleason Publications  
114 E. 32nd St.  
New York, 16, N. Y.**

This offer not valid in states where redemption of coupons is forbidden by law.

## HERE ARE THE SETS

Order By Number

When you send your coupons, choose the set or sets you want. Order them by number — but each set is **COMPLETE** and cards in each set **CANNOT** be changed. Order more sets as you want more cards.

### SET NO. 1

SLUGGER  
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### SET NO. 3

ROCKY X  
(of the Rocketeers)  
BUMPER  
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### SET NO. 2

WISE GUYS GROUP  
CRIMEBUSTER  
AND SQUEEKS  
RELIAPON

### SET NO. 4

SCARECROW  
SIMPLY SMITH  
DILLY DUNCAN

### SET NO. 5

BLACK DIAMOND AND RELIAPON  
SQUEEKS  
THE VACUUM

## ORDER BLANK

PICTURE SET DIVISION,  
LEV GLEASON PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
114 E. 32nd Street, Send cash, check  
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Enclosed are \_\_\_\_\_ trading picture coupons  
cut from Lev Gleason Comics and \_\_\_\_\_¢.  
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Set No. 1  Set No. 2  Set No. 3   
Set No. 4  Set No. 5   
My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)  
My address is \_\_\_\_\_



SAMPLE COUPON



# ELECTRONIC WALKIE TALKIES

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CHASSIS,  
U. S. GOVERNMENT PATENT NO. 2,536,179



TWO-WAY WALKIE TALKIES

**TWO-WAY COMMUNICATIONS:** Set consists of two (2) "transceivers" ready to hook up between any two points. No license needed! Simply attach wire coil (included with each set) to terminals on each Walkie Talkie. As easy to use as your telephone. You need not fear interference from buildings, walls, fences, trees, etc. Your Walkie Talkie will operate anywhere. Clear voice transmission guaranteed.

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## Certificate of Guarantee

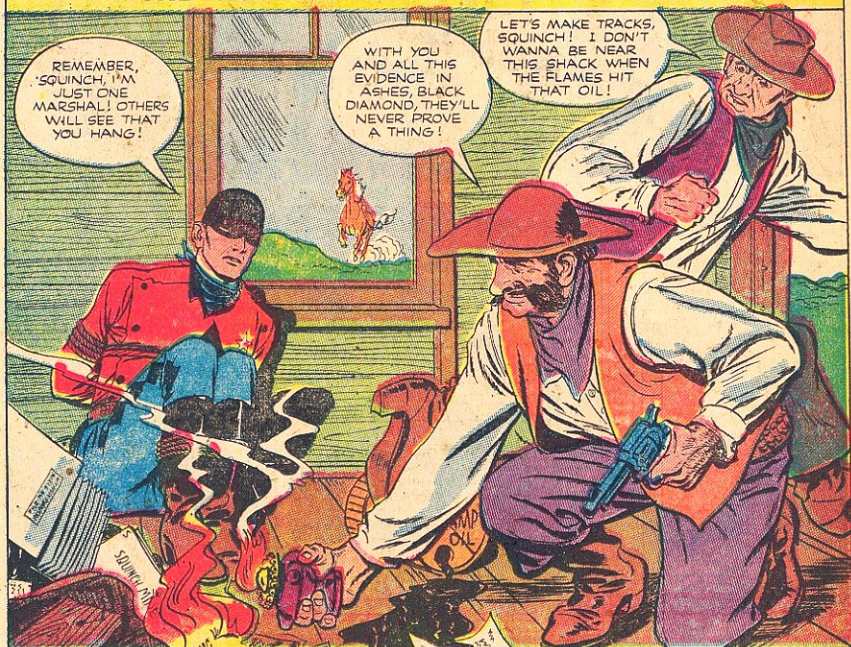
If either of your Walkie Talkie Sets should stop operating for any reason, our factory engineers will repair and return it to you at absolutely no cost.

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EMPIRE MERCHANDISING CO., DEPT. 4A  
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# BLACK DIAMOND

DESTRUCTION, POVERTY AND DEATH THREATENED AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY WHEN BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER STEPPED IN TO TRY AND SOLVE "THE MYSTERY OF THE MURDER MINE"



REMEMBER, SQUINCH, I'M JUST ONE MARSHALL! OTHERS WILL SEE THAT YOU HANG!

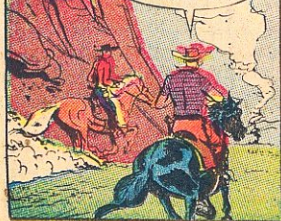
WITH YOU AND ALL THIS EVIDENCE IN ASHES, BLACK DIAMOND, THEY'LL NEVER PROVE A THING!

LET'S MAKE TRACKS, SQUINCH! I DON'T WANNA BE NEAR THIS SHACK WHEN THE FLAMES HIT THAT OIL!

BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER WERE JUST OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF FILLMORE. THE TRAIL OF DANGEROUS THIEVES WHO HAD MADE A SERIES OF SUCCESSFUL AND BLOODY RAIDS ON GOLD SHIPMENTS WHEN...

FASTER, BUMPER, OR WE'LL BE TOO LATE!

FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT SMOKE, DIAMOND, WE'RE TOO LATE ALREADY!



THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN, THE MURDERIN' DOGS! NOT ONE MAN ALIVE, DIAMOND!

AND NOT A TRACE OF THE GOLD! COME ON, BUMPER, WE'RE HEADING FOR FILLMORE TO SEE THE SHERIFF!



...AND THAT MAKES THE SIXTH RAID THIS MONTH, SHERIFF!

EVERY MINER AROUND HERE IS GOING BROKE!

Dick Rockwell



I'M SURE JETHRO SQUINCH IS IN ON THIS! HE NEVER EARNED AN HONEST PENNY IN HIS LIFE!

...AND NOW HE'S A MINE OWNER!



I WISH WE COULD PROVE SOMETHING, BUT HIS MINE IS LEGITIMATE, AND HIS OWN REFINERY DOES THE PROCESSING!

AND THAT WAY HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE ROBBERIES! LET'S GO, BUMPER! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



I'M GOING TO TALK TO HARRIS! HE OWNED THE MINE BEFORE SQUINCH TOOK OVER!

I WONDER WHY HARRIS WANTED TO GET RID OF SUCH A WELL-PAYING PROPOSITION

BUMPER'S QUESTION IS SOON ANSWERED...



...SO I HAD TO SELL! SQUINCH KNEW I ONCE WORKED FOR THE CROOKEDEST MAN THIS SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE! BUT I WAS JUST A KID! I DIDN'T KNOW...IT WAS BLACKMAIL!

AND HE HAD YOU BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE YOU LEFT THAT GANG WHEN YOU FOUND OUT WHAT THEY WERE!



...BUT I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE NEW LODE! I'D HAVE SWORN I WORKED THAT MINE OUT OF GOLD!

WELL, IT LOOKS ON THE UP AND UP SO FAR, BUT WE'LL WATCH SQUINCH! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, HARRIS! WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

HIS CONVERSATION WITH DIAMOND STILL ON HIS MIND, HARRIS DECIDES TO TAKE A LOOK FOR HIMSELF...



I'LL SOON FIND OUT WHERE THAT NEW LODE CAME FROM!

BUT HARRIS NEVER DID FIND OUT...



IT'S HARRIS, DIAMOND! HE'S HURT!

WHERE COULD HE HAVE BEEN? HIS HORSE LOOKS DONE IN!



LET'S GET HIM OFF THE HORSE, BUMPER!

SHOT... GUARD...

EASY DOES IT, PAL!



WHO SHOT YOU? WHERE WERE...

WENT TO...MINE... TO SEE...GUARD SHOT ME...BUT I GOT HIM... TOO! I THINK THE MINE... S...S...SALT...FOOLED EVERYONE...AGHH...



HE'S DEAD! LET'S GO FIND THAT GUARD! HE MAY BE ALIVE AND CAN TELL US WHAT HARRIS WAS TRYING TO SAY! COME ON!



THERE'S THE MINE... BUMPER! LOOK! THAT MUST BE THE GUARD!

HE'S MOVING! LET'S HOPE WE CAN GET HIM TO TALK!

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE...HE TRESPASSED ON MINE! BOSS...SAY NO... ONE...TO GET NEAR...UGH..



ARMED GUARDS WHO SHOOT TO KILL, BUMPER! THAT MEANS THERE'S SOMETHING ROTTEN ABOUT THAT MINE, AND I AIM TO FIND OUT WHAT!



NEXT DAY AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS BLACK DIAMOND TELLS THE SHERIFF ABOUT THE GUARD...

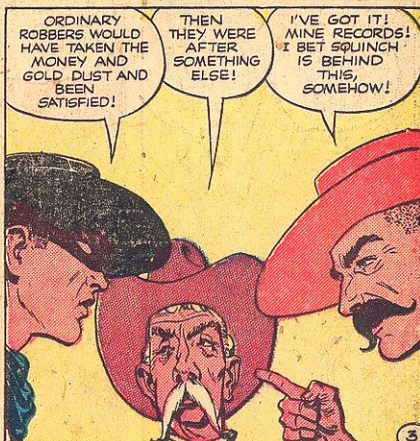
SHERIFF! SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE ASSAYERS OFFICE LAST NIGHT! THEY WRECKED THE PLACE!

WHA...? LET'S GET OVER THERE!



GOOD GRAVY, DIAMOND! WADDAYA MAKE OF THIS?

THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN ROBBERY! ALL THE FILES ARE MIXED UP, TORN, OR BURNED! IT'LL TAKE MONTHS TO GET THEM IN ORDER AND FIND OUT WHAT'S BEEN REMOVED-OR DESTROYED...

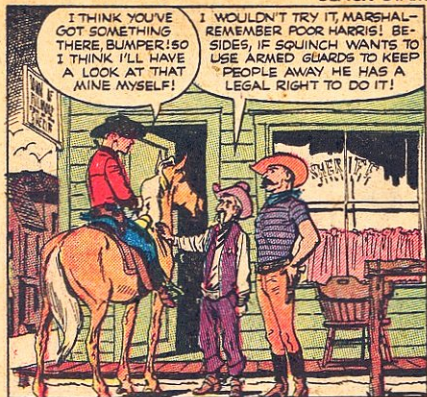


ORDINARY ROBBERS WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE MONEY AND GOLD DUST AND BEEN SATISFIED!

THEN THEY WERE AFTER SOMETHING ELSE!

I'VE GOT IT! MINE RECORDS! I BET SQUINCH IS BEHIND THIS, SOMEHOW!





I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE, BUMPER! SO I THINK I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THAT MINE MYSELF!

I WOULDN'T TRY IT, MARSHAL—REMEMBER POOR HARRIS! BESIDES, IF SQUINCH WANTS TO USE ARMED GUARDS TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY HE HAS A LEGAL RIGHT TO DO IT!



I'M CERTAIN SQUINCH IS COVERING UP MORE THAN A GOLD MINE! IF WE'RE GOING TO CLEAR UP THESE ROBBERIES AND MURDERS WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND 'EM!

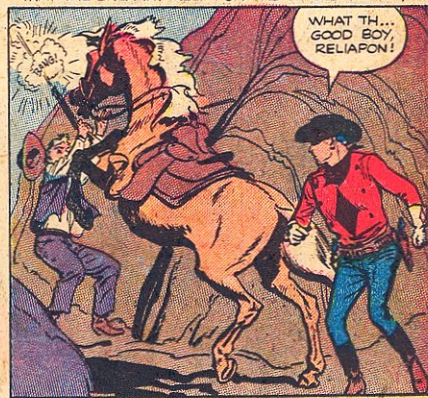
OKAY, DIAMOND, I'M WITH YOU— BUT BE CAREFUL! YOU'LL BE NO GOOD TO ME DEAD! GOOD LUCK!



ANOTHER SNOOPER! I'LL FIX HIM!

I DON'T SEE ANY GUARDS, YET! MAYBE...

THE TRIGGER-HAPPY GUARD TAKES AIM, NOT REALIZING THAT THE UNCANNY RELIAPON HAD SENSED DANGER, AND...



WHAT TH... GOOD BOY, RELIAPON!



COME ON, BOY! WE'D BETTER GET OUT FOR NOW!

I HEARD A SHOT! WHERE'S THE GUARD?



ONE MAN CAN'T DO THIS JOB... BUT I MUST GET INTO THAT MINE! I HAVE IT...

COME ON, RELIAPON, BACK TO TOWN— AND FAST!

BLACK DIAMOND RACES BACK AND UNFOLDS HIS DARING PLAN TO BUMPER...

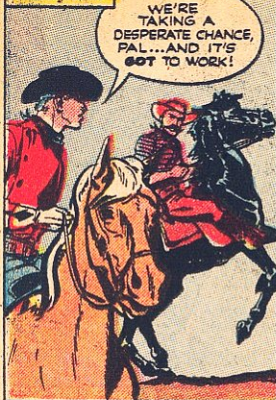


OKAY BUMPER— RIDE! I'LL GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO GET THERE...

I GET YOU, DIAMOND! THIS'LL BE EASY!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AND AS BUMPER RIDES OFF TO THE MINE...



WE'RE TAKING A DESPERATE CHANCE, PAL...AND IT'S GOT TO WORK!

SOON BLACK DIAMOND REACHES THE MINE AND SEES THAT THE PLAN IS WORKING...



I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF! BUMPER'S RIGHT ON THE JOB... JUST A FEW MINUTES NOW, AND...

SUDDENLY SHOTS RING OUT!



THAT'S RIGHT, BUMPER! KEEP 'EM BUSY WITH THOSE GUNS...NOW TO GET INTO THE MINE!

BOG!  
BANG!



IT WORKED! THERE THEY GO AFTER BUMPER! AND HERE I GO INTO THIS MINE AT LAST!



THIS LOOKS LIKE REAL GOLD...BUT WAIT A MINUTE...I BETTER GET A PICK AND A LAMP AND GO TO WORK!

AS DIAMOND WORKS FEVERISHLY...



SNOOPIN' AIN'T HEALTHY, MARSHAL- ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!



THIS WILL CLINCH THE CASE! MY HUNCH ABOUT THIS GOLD WAS RIGHT!

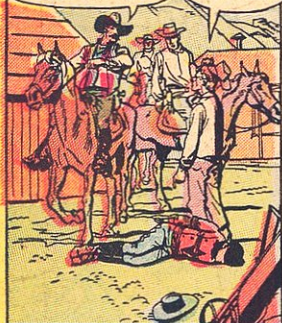
UGH...

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU'LL GO, YA NOSY RAT!

THE GUARD HAD JUST BOUND BLACK DIAMOND AND CARRIED HIM OUT WHEN HIS PALES GOT BACK...

THAT BIG FELLER WITH THE BIG MUSTACHE GOT AWAY! BOY, HE SURE CAN RIDE!

WELL, HERE'S THE OTHER ONE! WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM?



WE BETTER LET BOSS SQUINCH HANDLE HIM! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE HILL SHACK AND PUT HIM RIGHT IN SQUINCH'S LAP!

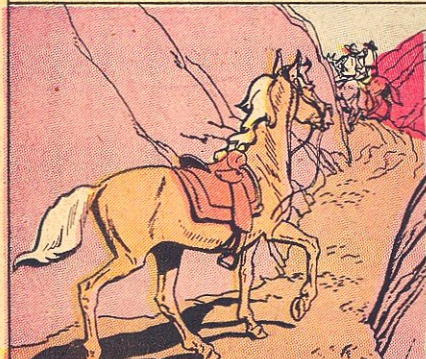
GOOD! AND HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT!



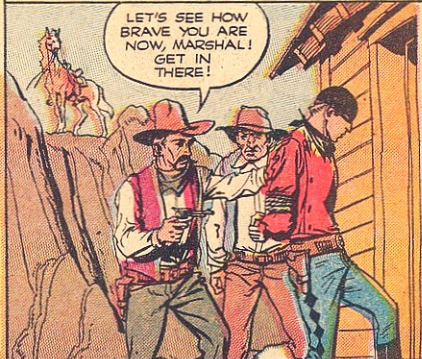
BUT ONCE AGAIN AN OUTLAW MAKES THE MISTAKE OF FORGETTING RELIAPON, WHO SEES HIS HELPLESS MASTER...



AND, KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE, THE UNCANNY HORSE FOLLOWS SOFTLY...CAREFULLY... THEN...



...BLACK DIAMOND, REVIVED BUT DAZED, IS USHERED IN-TO THE SHACK, STILL UNDER RELIAPON'S WATCHFUL EYE...



LET'S SEE HOW BRAVE YOU ARE NOW, MARSHAL! GET IN THERE!

SO YOU WERE CURIOUS ABOUT THE MINE, MARSHAL! WELL, WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...

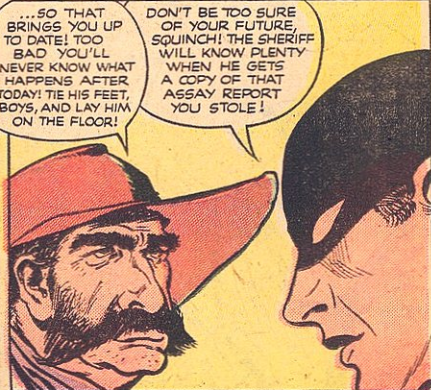
SURE, BOSS, HE CAN KEEP A SECRET! DEAD MEN ARE VERY GOOD AT KEEPIN' SECRETS, AIN'T THEY, MARSHAL?



THE TALE SQUINCH TOLD BLACK DIAMOND WAS ONE OF UNBELIEVABLE HORROR, OF ROBBERY, OF MURDER, AND OF ANIMAL LUST FOR GOLD!

...SO THAT BRINGS YOU UP TO DATE! TOO BAD YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AFTER TODAY! TIE HIS FEET, BOYS, AND LAY HIM ON THE FLOOR!

DON'T BE TOO SURE OF YOUR FUTURE, SQUINCH! THE SHERIFF WILL KNOW PLENTY WHEN HE GETS A COPY OF THAT ASSAY REPORT YOU STOLE!





WE LEFT THAT OFFICE IN SUCH A MESS, THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT'S MISSING—AND NOW...



ALL THE EVIDENCE WILL BE IN ASHES AND SO WILL YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE, SQUINCH! YOU'LL HANG YET!

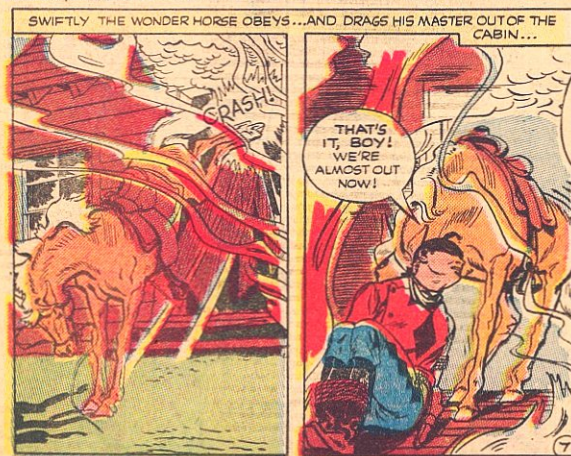


LET'S GO! THE FIRE WILL FINISH HIM OFF!



JUST AS THE FIRE WAS ABOUT TO DO ITS HIDEOUS JOB, RELIAPON ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...

ATTABOY, RELIAPON! KICK DOWN THE DOOR QUICK!



SWIFTLY THE WONDER HORSE OBEYS...AND DRAGS HIS MASTER OUT OF THE CABIN...

THAT'S IT, BOY! WE'RE ALMOST OUT NOW!



...WITHIN SECONDS RELIAPON HAD CHEWED OFF THE ROPES THAT BOUND BLACK DIAMOND...

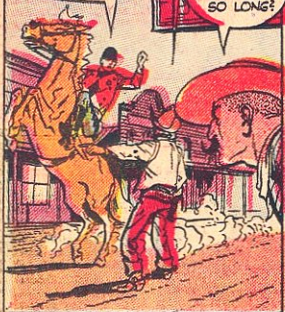
I'M AS SPEECHLESS AS YOU ARE, PAL...SO MAYBE I'D BETTER FORGET SAYING THANKS AND GET BACK TO SEE THE SHERIFF! LET'S GO!

WITHIN MINUTES... DID SQUINCH RIDE THROUGH, SHERIFF?

HE JUST CAME OUT OF THE BANK AND HEADED THAT WAY FAST!

DIAMOND! WHAT IN TARNATION TOOK YOU SO LONG?

NEVER MIND—COME ON, BUMPER! WE CAN DO PLENTY TO SQUINCH NOW!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN IN A FEW MINUTES THE TWO FASTEST RIDERS IN THE WEST TAKE SQUINCH BY SURPRISE...

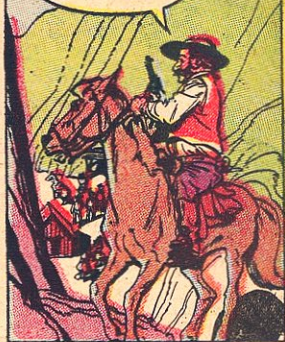
IT'S HIM, SQUINCH! THE ONE WE BURNED! HOW COME?

NEVER MIND HOW, YA BUG-EYED IDIOT! THERE'S A SHERIFF'S POSSE BEHIND HIM! HEAD FOR THE MINE! WE CAN HOLD OUT THERE!



AT THE MINE, SQUINCH SHOWS HIS TRUE COLOR—YELLOW!

WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE—I'M CLEARING OUT ALONE UP THE CLIFF TRAIL!

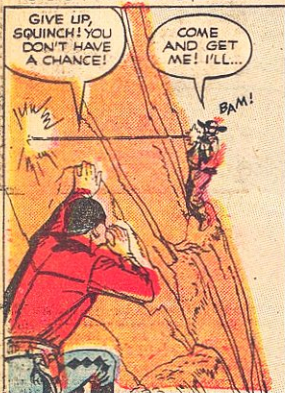


BUT, BLACK DIAMOND WAS TWO STEPS AHEAD OF SQUINCH...

GIVE UP, SQUINCH! YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

COME AND GET ME! I'LL...

BAM!



OH! I'M SLIPPING! HELP ME! OH!



THAT'S THE END OF SQUINCH!

AN IRONICAL DEATH! HIS POCKETS WERE SO HEAVY WITH STOLEN GOLD THAT IT PULLED HIM OFF BALANCE— AND KILLED HIM!



I STILL DON'T GET IT! SQUINCH KILLED FOR GOLD WHEN HE HAD ALL THIS WEALTH RIGHT IN HIS OWN MINE!

IT'S ALL FAKE—IT'S DONE BY TAKING THE SHOT OUT OF A GUN SHELL, FILLING IT WITH GOLD, THEN FIRING IT INTO THE CAVE WALL EMBEDDING THE GOLD!



YOU MEAN IT WAS A SALTED MINE?

THAT'S THE NAME FOR IT, SHERIFF, BUT THE SHELL STUCK ALSO! THAT'S WHAT I FOUND WHEN I WAS SLUGGED FROM BEHIND!

AND THAT'S WHY THEY ROBBED THE ASSAYERS OFFICE! THE REPORT SHOWED TRACES OF GUN POWDER IN THE ORE!



ALL THE GOLD SQUINCH EVER HAD HE STOLE FROM THE WAGON, THEN PRETENDED IT WAS FROM HIS MINE—EVEN THE REFINERY WAS A FRONT!

BUT LIKE ALL CROOKS, HE SLIPPED LIP AND DESTROYED HIMSELF!



The End



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# The Trap Snapped



"There's no reason why all the trappers up the Missouri should be prey to this thievery," said Gene to his partner, Toby, as he fondled one of the very few beaver pelts he had successfully trapped. The stillness of the cold northwest night crept over the two trappers as they sat beside their dying fire and Gene continued to speak. "If there was only some clue, some evidence. Just something to go on."

"If trappers didn't work alone and could somehow band together, half our battle would be won," muttered Toby. "But what can a lone trapper in the wilderness do against an unknown enemy?"

"If we could somehow mark the pelts, or bait the trap for the thief," mused Gene. "Wait! I have an idea!"

"What?" curiously asked Toby, hoping that this idea might solve the problem of the mysterious thief or thieves who had been looting their traps all winter.

"Why didn't we think of this before?" mysteriously asked Gene. "Why not drop a spring trap in the water and make it look from above like a sprung beaver trap? When our mysterious friend approaches, sinks his hand into the water to steal the beaver, the trap will spring on his hand! What could be better?"

Toby thought for a moment, then replied, "That's all very fine but it wouldn't catch the snake in the grass."

"But," continued Gene enthusiastically, "it would give us a clue. It, at least, would wound the culprit and then we'd have some evidence to go on."

"It's worth a try," concluded Toby. "Let's set it first thing tomorrow."

The two trappers banked the fire, rolled in their blankets and fell off to sleep in the cold stillness. Early the next morning Toby and Gene started their morning tasks of

checking and setting traps. The day's catch was small but there was no evidence of further looting.

"Maybe our thieving friend has moved on to greener fields," said Toby, as he successfully pulled a beaver from a trap.

"Perhaps," mused Gene, "but I still think we'd better set this trap."

The two worked diligently on their novel trap. They tied the steel trap to the end of a rope, weighted it down with a stone. The other end of the rope they tied to a flexible branch overhanging the stream. The weight of the stone pulled the rope taut and evidence above the water made the trap look like it must have caught its prey, the wary beaver. Then the two trappers set up watch. They sat, hidden in the underbrush at the edge of the river each for four hour stretches. They sat and sat and watched and watched and nothing happened. Twenty-four hours passed and still the thief or thieves had not appeared. Toby and Gene began to believe that the culprit had gone on up the river or else had stolen enough pelts to make his way back to the rendezvous and cash them in.

At the end of the second day of disappointing watch, Gene finally said, "We should have set this early in the year. It's time for us to break camp and start the long trek back."

And Gene was right. It took weeks to get back to Jackson Hole to trade in their pelts and the time had come to pack up and start the trip back. Late that evening, having completed packing up for their early start down the river the next morning, Gene said to Toby, "I just have to check that trap once more before we start. Then I think we ought to leave it as it is. Who knows when it might spring?"

The next morning as Toby cooked breakfast, Gene made his way up the river. As he approached the spot where they'd set the trap he saw that it was no longer there. As he came closer to the spot where it had been

set he looked around for traces of the trap. There was nothing there. Even the limber branch to which the rope of the trap had been tied had been torn from the bush. Gene went to the river bank. There was nothing, the rope was gone, the trap was gone. He looked down and saw in the snow traces of blood. As he knelt down to examine this more closely and follow the faint streak of red through the snow, he saw what looked like footprints. There were only a few prints as the snow disappeared not far from the edge of the bank, then both blood and footprints were lost. It seemed to Gene that the footprints had a peculiar appearance. The right foot had made a distinct print twice, but the left foot only made the print of the heel. Either the man had been frightened and was hopping excitedly off with the trap on his hand or he had a decided limp. Gene cursed himself for the let-up in their watch and returned to Toby discouragably.

"Toby," he disgustedly said, "we are two of the worst vigilantes in history. Why, why didn't we stay on watch? We'd have caught the thief red-handed!"

"Well," answered Toby philosophically, "maybe we were foolish, but at least now we have two clues to go on. A severely wounded hand on a man who has a bad limp!"

The two disgruntled trappers then started their trip to Jackson Hole. Down the river by canoe they went as far as it was passable. Then on foot, through the cold and dangerous wilderness. Over a week later, reaching a trading post, they picked up horses and from then on south the trip was easier. Finally, reaching Jackson Hole, they felt like they were coming home again. The trappers had begun to gather and the usual revelry and swapping of stories was going on. Disappointment was theirs when they turned their pelts over to the traders, as theirs was a meager catch and scarcely gave them enough money for the coming year.

Sitting around a fire one night, discussing their plight with other trappers, Gene remarked, "There's some underhanded looting going on up the Missouri. Maybe we'd better try another location. But Toby and I know it so well up there we'd hate to start from scratch somewhere else."

"Everyone who trapped the Missouri has the same story," answered one of the trappers. "It sounds mighty strange."

"Doesn't Pierre Henri trap up there?" asked another trapper.

"He always has, with pretty good luck. I wonder how he made out this year?" said another.

"I saw him trading today and he really had a load," volunteered another trapper. "Maybe we can get him over here and see what he has to say about the looting."

"Pierre Henri, Pierre Henri," thought Gene. Something rang a bell in his mind. He knew Pierre. What was it he wondered about? Pierre, a half-breed trapper, not popular among the other trappers, a lone wolf, froze his feet that cold winter and lost the toes on one foot!

Gene jumped to his feet without a word

and left the group around the fire. Toby followed swiftly on his heels.

"What is it, Gene?" asked Toby.

"We've got to find Pierre Henri," whispered Gene.

Gene and Toby wandered around from camp site to camp site looking for Henri. Everywhere Gene inquired after Henri the men thought that he had already left the rendezvous. No one ever left the rendezvous so soon. The trappers always stayed and enjoyed the human companionship they had been without so long. But Gene would not give up. Finally he learned where Pierre Henri had made camp and he and Toby rode toward the lonely spot. Pierre Henri had not left yet.

Toby and Gene dismounted and stealthily approached the lone figure, packing his horse ready to leave. As they came very near, Gene whispered, "Wait, Toby. Let's watch for a minute. Then we'll be sure."

They watched. Pierre Henri walked back and forth, picking up equipment and packing it on his horse and the two trappers noticed that he had a decided limp. He walked heavily on his right foot, his left foot only touched the ground with the heel! Without another word, Gene jumped from behind the bushes and leaped at Pierre Henri. The startled half-breed fell to the ground and Gene pinned his arms down with little struggle.

"Toby," called Gene. "Take a look at his hands while I hold him!"

Henri struggled and yelled for help, cursed under his breath. His yells were to no avail as his camp was far from the other trappers. Toby reached down to examine Henri's hands which were covered by heavy gloves. Toby removed one glove from Henri's resisting hand only to reveal a perfectly normal, though gnarled, hand.

"Try the other one, Toby," said Gene.

Henri again squirmed, trying to get free, but Toby grabbed the other hand and tore the glove from it. There in the palm of Henri's hand and on the back were the almost healed scars of a wound from the teeth of a steel trap.

"You ain't got nothin' on me. I dunno what yer tryin' to do," fumed Pierre Henri.

"Never mind, Pierre. Toby, let's tie him up and haul him in," Gene replied.

The evidence against Pierre Henri was strong; the scars from the spring trap, Gene's report of the footprints in the snow, but above all his remarkable catch which he foolishly traded in at Jackson Hole. Henri had traded more pelts than any trapper in history and the traders had wondered suspiciously about him.

Pierre Henri never trapped again. He was taken as prisoner with the men of the fur companies as they made their trip east. Pierre soon was behind bars and the trappers were now free on the upper Missouri. Looting had ceased and quiet again reigned in the peaceful northwest.

THE END



# SURE AS SHOOTIN' by CLAUDE MOORE



**BELLE STARR**

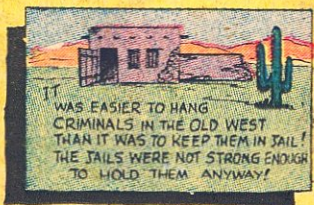
ORGANIZED AND BOSSED ONE OF THE TOUGHEST GANGS OF RUSTLERS AND HORSE THIEVES THE WEST EVER HAD!

SHE WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY ONE OF HER OWN MEN, WHOSE LOVE SHE SPURNED!



**THE GHOST OF ROCKY ROAD, Arizona**

IT IS RECORDED THAT MANY COWBOYS HAVE SEEN THE GHOST OF ROCKY ROAD! THEY SAY IT WAS THE GHOST OF MIKE HANLEY WHO WAS MURDERED... AND THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE MAN THAT KILLED AND ROBBED HIM! THERE WERE A GOOD MANY COWBOYS WHO WOULDN'T RIDE THAT ROAD AT NIGHT!



IT WAS EASIER TO HANG CRIMINALS IN THE OLD WEST THAN IT WAS TO KEEP THEM IN JAIL! THE JAILS WERE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD THEM ANYWAY!



THE GRAVE OF JOHN RINGO WAS MARKED WITH FLAT ROCKS 12 FT LONG AND 4 FT WIDE!

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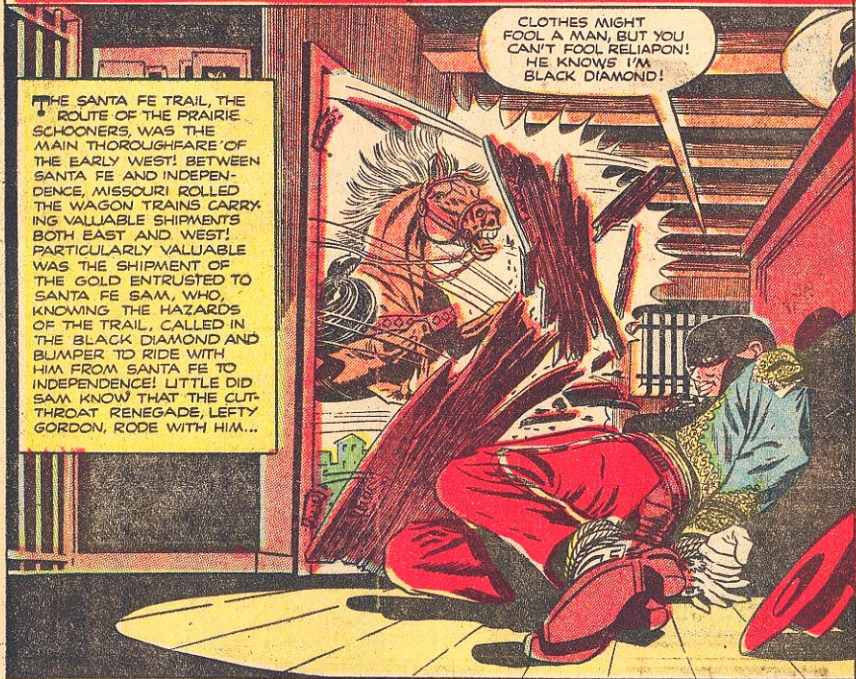
My order is worth \$3.00 to you. Earn your own pocket money with our free folder. A. & M. Thomson, 1939 E. 85th St. Cleveland 6, Ohio

# BLACK DIAMOND

clashes with cutthroat Lefty Gordon in "THE IMPOSTOR"

THE SANTA FE TRAIL, THE ROUTE OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOONERS, WAS THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF THE EARLY WEST! BETWEEN SANTA FE AND INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI ROLLED THE WAGON TRAINS CARRYING VALUABLE SHIPMENTS BOTH EAST AND WEST! PARTICULARLY VALUABLE WAS THE SHIPMENT OF THE GOLD ENTRUSTED TO SANTA FE SAM, WHO, KNOWING THE HAZARDS OF THE TRAIL, CALLED IN THE BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER TO RIDE WITH HIM FROM SANTA FE TO INDEPENDENCE! LITTLE DID SAM KNOW THAT THE CUT-THROAT RENEGADE, LEFTY GORDON, RODE WITH HIM...

CLOTHES MIGHT FOOL A MAN, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL RELIAPAN! HE KNOWS I'M BLACK DIAMOND!



UPON ARRIVAL IN SANTA FE, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER REPORT TO SANTA FE SAM AT THE FREIGHT OFFICE...

WE JUST MADE IT, SAM!

BLACK DIAMOND! I KNEW YOU'D GET HERE IN TIME TO JOIN THE WAGON TRAIN TOMORROW! WE'RE CARRYIN' PLENTY OF GOLD THAT NEEDS PROTECTIN'! MEET DON VELASQUEZ DE ALVARADO, A RELATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR!

THE PLEASURE IS MINE, SENOR DIAMOND!



IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN SANTA FE! BUT I HAVE A HANKERING FOR SOME GOOD MEXICAN FOOD!

AH, SENOR, I KNOW JUST THE PLACE! CONCHITA'S! WILL YOU ALLOW ME THE PLEASURE OF ESCORTING YOU THERE!

SEE YOU AT FIVE TOMORROW, BLACK DIAMOND! ROUND UP EIGHT MEN! I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR GOOD JUDGMENT!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

THE MEXICAN FOOD AT CONCHITA'S LIVED UP TO BLACK DIAMOND'S EXPECTATIONS...

THIS IS THE BEST ENCHILLADA I EVER ATE, DON VELASQUEZ!

I'LL TAKE THE CHILI ANY DAY— BUT SAY, THAT CONCHITA IS THE BEST MEXICAN DISH HERE! AND SHE'S HUMAN!

COME ON, CONCHITA, QUIT STALLING! DOPE THE COFFEE LIKE I SAID!



THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT DINNER, CONCHITA! HOPE TO BE BACK SOON!

GRACIAS, SENOR!

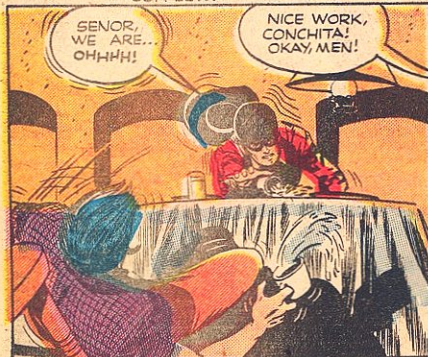
IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR, SENORS, TO HAVE YOU AS MY GUESTS!



LITTLE DID BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER SUSPECT THAT DON VELASQUEZ DE ALVARADO, ALIAS LEFTY GORDON, HAD INSTRUCTED CONCHITA TO DRUG THE COFFEE...

SENOR, WE ARE... OHHHH!

NICE WORK, CONCHITA! OKAY, MEN!



LEAVE BUMPER INSIDE! CONCHITA, YOU WATCH HIM! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND WE WANT TO GET RID OF! LORENZO AND WILDCAT—TAKE HIM TO THE OLD JAIL! I'LL COME WITH YOU!

LEFTY! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?



AT AN ABANDONED JAIL IN A DESERTED SECTION OF SANTA FE, THERE IS A QUICK SWITCH IN COSTUMES...

NOW INSTEAD OF BEING DON VELASQUEZ DE ALVARADO, I'LL BE THE FAMOUS BLACK DIAMOND! HA! HA! OKAY, BOYS, TIE HIM UP AND LOCK THE DOOR!

LEFTY, IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SO WELL, I'D SWEAR YOU WERE THE BLACK DIAMOND!

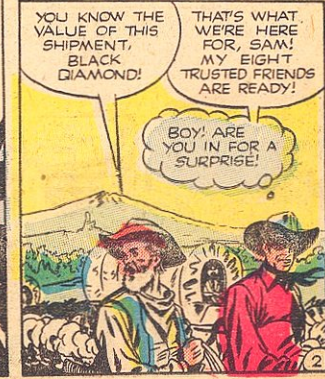
NOW LISTEN! THE GOLD SHIPMENT LEAVES AT FIVE TOMORROW! SANTA FE SAM TOLD BLACK DIAMOND TO ROUND UP EIGHT MEN! WILDCAT BILL AND YOU, LORENZO, ARE TWO! GO BACK TO CONCHITA'S AND GET SIX MORE OF THE BOYS AND MEET ME AT THE FREIGHT OFFICE AT FIVE!

THE NEXT MORNING THE DISGUISED BLACK DIAMOND REPORTS TO SANTA FE SAM...

YOU KNOW THE VALUE OF THIS SHIPMENT, BLACK DIAMOND!

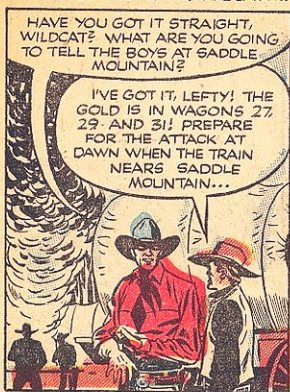
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, SAM! MY EIGHT TRUSTED FRIENDS ARE READY!

BOY! ARE YOU IN FOR A SURPRISE!

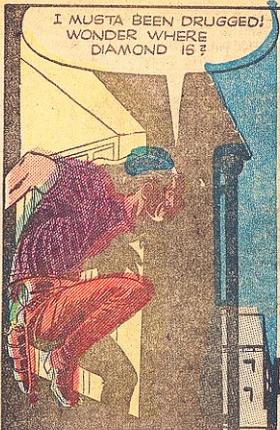


**BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN**

THE FIRST NIGHT OUT AS THE FIFTY WAGONS OF THE TRAIN MAKE CAMP...



MEANWHILE, BACK IN SANTA FE, BUMPER COMES TO FROM HIS DOSE OF KNOCKOUT DROPS...



BUMPER HURRIES TO THE STABLE WHERE EL LOBO AND RELIAPON HAD BEEN LEFT...



BUMPER RUSHES TO THE FREIGHT OFFICE...



BUMPER SPURS ON EL LOBO IN PURSUIT OF THE WAGON TRAIN...



HARD RIDING IT WAS, BUT THE SWIFTESS OF EL LOBO BROUGHT BUMPER TO THE ENCAMPMENT BEFORE DAWN...



IN THE DARK, BUMPER DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HE IS TALKING TO LEFTY GORDON, DISGUISED AS BLACK DIAMOND...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AGAIN THE TRAIN MOVES ON! BUMPER UNQUESTIONINGLY OBEYS ORDERS AND TAKES HIS POSITION AT THE REAR OF THE WAGON TRAIN...



GLAD TO MEET YOU MRS. WILSON, MA'AM! SAY! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE YOU AND THAT BABY MORE COMFORTABLE!

YOU'RE VERY KIND; IT IS CROWDED IN HERE, AND THE BABY IS SICK!

HEY PAL, HAVE YOU ANY ROOM IN THAT WAGON? THERE'S A WOMAN WITH A SICK KID BACK THERE!



WE'RE LOADED TO THE GILLS! GO UP TO TWENTY-SIX! I THINK IKE HAS SPACE!

SAY, IKE, IF YOU HAVE ANYSPACE WE COULD USE IT! MRS. WILSON HAS A SICK BABY AND SHE'S TOO CROWDED WHERE SHE IS!



THE WIFE OF CAPTAIN FRANK WILSON OF THE TEXAS RANGERS! I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HER! CAPTAIN WILSON SAVED MY LIFE ONCE!

EVEN AFTER TRANSFERRING MRS. WILSON AND HER BABY TO IKE'S WAGON, THE JOSTLING DOES NOT RELIEVE THE SITUATION...



IKE, FULL OUT AND STOP A WHILE! THIS JOSTLING IS TOO MUCH FOR THE BABY!

OKAY, BUMPER, ANYTHING FOR THE WILSONS!

BUT LEFTY'S MEN MAKE WAGON 26 PULL BACK IN LINE, NOT KNOWING WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN THE WAGON PULLS INTO THE WRONG SPOT AND BECOMES WAGON 31, THROWING TWO OTHERS OUT OF POSITION...



PULL BACK IN, IKE! KEEP THIS TRAIN MOVIN'! WE WERE JUST TRYING TO GIVE THIS LADY AND HER SICK KID A REST!

OKAY, BOYS! WE'LL PULL BACK IN LINE! WE WERE JUST TRYING TO GIVE THIS LADY AND HER SICK KID A REST!

SORRY, MA'AM, BUT ORDERS IS ORDERS!

JUST BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN THE NEXT DAY, THE WAGON TRAIN STARTED AGAIN ON ITS LONG AND WEARY TREK...



GOOD MORNIN', MA'AM! HOW'S THAT YOUNG UN TODAY?

HE'S MUCH BETTER, BUMPER! THANKS TO YOU AND IKE!

WE'RE JUST ABOUT AT SADDLE MOUNTAIN AND MAKIN' PRETTY GOOD TIME...

SUDDENLY IN THE DARKNESS, LEFTY'S PLOT IS SET INTO SWIFT MOTION, WHEN HIS RENEGADES CHARGE...



PULL OUT OF LINE—AND HANDS UP!

YOU LOWDOWN CUR! THERE ARE ONLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN HERE!

SO SWIFT WAS THE ATTACK THAT THE RENEGADES CAUGHT THE TRAIN UN-AWARE AND DROVE OFF WITH WAGONS TWENTY-SEVEN, TWENTY-NINE AND THIRTY-ONE TOWARD THEIR HIDEOUT AT SADDLE MOUNTAIN...



THAT WAS THE EASIEST ATTACK WE EVER PULLED! ARE ALL THE PASSENGERS AND DRIVERS TIED UP IN THE BACK?

YEAH, BOSS!

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT GOLD!

GET GOIN'! I'LL GIVE YOU A HEAD START— THEN FOLLOW WITH THE OTHERS!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BUT THE RENEGADES WERE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE...

YOU STUPID FOOLS! YOU GOT THE WRONG WAGONS!

WE FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS WILDCAT! WE GOT THE WAGONS YOU TOLD US TO!

WE'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING MRS. WILSON! AT LEAST BLACK DIAMOND WILL COME TO THE RESCUE! HERE HE COMES NOW!

YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND, BUMPER!

SAY, THAT ISN'T BLACK DIAMOND! AND IT'S NOT RELIAPON! WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE GOLD WAGONS GOT OUT OF LINE AGAINST ORDERS! I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW!

WILDCAT, YOU STAY AND WATCH THOSE CAPTIVES! THE REST OF YOU MEET THE TRAIN AT EIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT! AND THIS TIME WE WON'T MISS! THE WAGONS WITH THE GOLD WILL BE THE LAST THREE IN LINE!

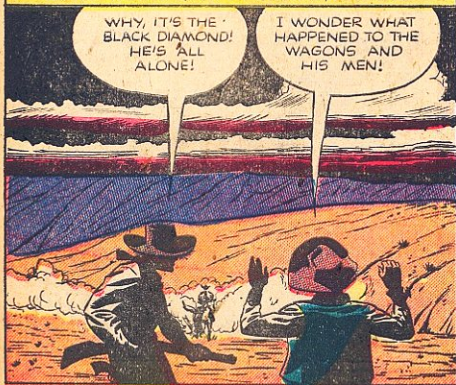
THAT RAT! THAT'S SOMEONE DISGUISED AS BLACK DIAMOND! BUT WHERE IS BLACK DIAMOND! HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS?



LEFTY DASHES BACK TO THE WAGON TRAIN...

WHY, IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND! HE'S ALL ALONE!

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WAGONS AND HIS MEN!



THE CRAFTY LEFTY RETURNS AND CONVINCES SANTA FE SAM THAT HE RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TRYING TO GET THEM BACK!

WHAT HAPPENED, DIAMOND!

I LOST 'EM, THE DIRTY RATS! ALL MY MEN WERE KILLED!



LISTEN, SAM, AFTER THAT TRICK, I THINK WE'D BETTER PUT ALL THREE GOLD WAGONS AT THE REAR OF THE TRAIN WITH A DOUBLE GUARD!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN SANTA FE, RELIAPON HAS BEEN SEARCHING THE TOWN FOR HIS MASTER, BLACK DIAMOND...



AND AT LAST BLACK DIAMOND COMES TO...

WHERE AM I?...WHAT HAPPENED? MY CLOTHES! WHERE'S RELIAPON? IF I CAN ONLY WHISTLE FOR HIM...

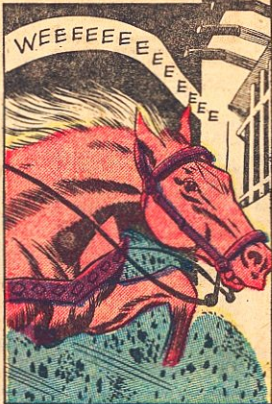


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

FAINTLY, IN THE DISTANCE, RELIAPON HEARS HIS MASTER'S WHISTLE...



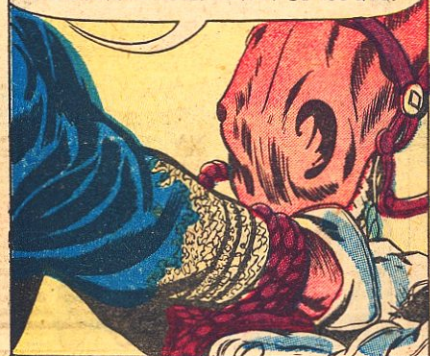
...AND RACES TO THE JAIL...



GOOD BOY RELIAPON! NOW GET AT THESE ROPES!



IF ONLY YOU COULD TALK, RELIAPON, BUT I THINK I SEE THE PICTURE! WE'D BETTER HURRY DOWN THE SANTA FE TRAIL! WE MAY BE TOO LATE!



IT'S A HARD PUSH, OLD BOY, BUT WE'LL CATCH UP WITH THEM!



WHILE BLACK DIAMOND AND RELIAPON RACE TOWARD THE WAGON TRAIN, BUMPER AND HIS FELLOW CAPTIVES HAVE HATCHED A PLOT...

WOULD YOU MIND HOLDING THE BABY WHILE I GET SOME FOOD READY FOR HIM?

WELL, MA'AM, ALL RIGHT! BUT DON'T GO OUT OF MY SIGHT!



I'LL TRY TO GRAB HIS GUN WHILE HIS ATTENTION IS DIVERTED! I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T DROP THE BABY!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BUMPER ACTS FAST...



QUICK! GRAB YOUR BABY, MRS WILSON!



OKAY, IKE, GIVE IT TO 'EM! MRS. WILSON, GET UNDER COVER! THERE'S GONNA BE SOME ROUGH ACTION!

THE CAPTIVES, NOW FREE, MEET HEAD ON WITH THEIR CAPTORS...



NICE GOIN', BOYS! KEEP IT UP!



NOW, GET THEIR HORSES! WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE! IKE, YOU LEAD MRS. WILSON DOWN AND WE'LL RIDE ON AHEAD!

RIGHT, BUMPER! I'LL MEET YOU AT THE WAGON TRAIN!



I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT IMPOSTOR, THE RAT!



WHILE BUMPER STORMS DOWN SADDLE MOUNTAIN, BLACK DIAMOND IN THE CLOTHES OF DON VELASQUEZ REACHES THE WAGON TRAIN AND CORNERS LEFTY GORDON...

TAKE OFF THAT MASK, YOU ROTTEN FAKE, OR I'LL BLOW IT OFF!



SAM! HELP! THIS IMPOSTOR! THIS MAN THINKS HE'S BLACK DIAMOND!

HEY, THERE, LAY OFF BLACK DIAMOND OR I'LL SHOOT!

LET'S SEE WHO THIS SO-CALLED BLACK DIAMOND IS!



I'LL SHOW THE WORLD! WELL, DON VELASQUEZ, THIS IS A SURPRISE! I NEVER FIGURED YOU TO BE HEAD OF THIS RING!

THE NAME'S LEFTY GORDON AND YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU STUCK YOUR NOSE INTO THIS!

IT'S A WONDER ANY OF US ARE STILL ALIVE!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

AS LEFTY TRIES TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, BLACK DIAMOND STOPS HIM IN HIS TRACKS...

MEANWHILE, LEFTY'S MEN, SEEING THEIR LEADER UNMASKED, QUICKLY MOUNT THEIR HORSES AND TAKE OFF!

DON'T GO ANYWHERE TILL WE GET BACK, LEFTY! WE WON'T BE LONG!



OH, NO, YOU DON'T!



AFTER THEM! THEY'RE GORDON'S MEN!



YOU ARRIVED IN THE NICK OF TIME, BLACK DIAMOND!



THERE'S BUMPER COMING DOWN THE HILL NOW! THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE!

BANG!



GOOD WORK, BUMPER!

WELL, BLACK DIAMOND! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU IN THOSE FANCY CLOTHES! BUT I SURE KNEW RELIAPON!



WE'LL SEND SOME MEN UP SADDLE MOUNTAIN TO HALL IN THE MEN YOU LEFT THERE, BUMPER!

THAT'LL WIPE OUT THE WHOLE BAND! LOOK! HERE'S MRS. WILSON SAFE AND SOUND!



LOOKS LIKE THE MOST VALUABLE CARGO ON THIS TRAIN IS THIS WAGON FULL OF HOMBRES WE HAVE RIGHT HERE!

THE AUTHORITIES IN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE HAPPIER TO SEE THIS TRAIN IS THIS WAGON LOAD THAN ALL THE OTHERS PUT TOGETHER!

RIGHT, BUMPER! NOW I HOPE THE DAYS OF TERROR ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL ARE OVER!

THE END

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RIGHT—LET'S ASK HIM HIS SECRET

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LATER

JACK! ANOTHER BITE! GEE—MAGIC FISHERMAN SURE IS WONDERFUL

YEAH—AN WITH MAGIC FISHERMAN AND THE LUMINOUS BAIT WE CAN CATCH 'EM AT NIGHT! YOU

WHAT BEAUTIES! NO MORE FISHLESS DAYS FOR US— THANKS TO MAGIC FISHERMAN!

IT'S JUST AMAZING!



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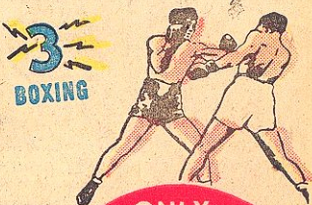
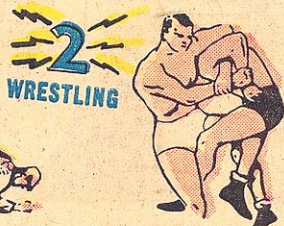
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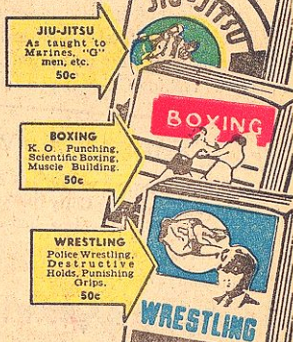
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Then do as I did...  
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I gained 53 lbs. of mighty muscle  
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